

## GREAT MEMORY FOR HATS.

A Hotel Employee Who Knew Every Diner's Hat.

Magician Herrmann Valued Tried to Deceive Him.

In the death of Robert Stith, the hat man at the Southern Hotel, that house loses an invaluable employee and St. Louis a character of national reputation, says the St. Louis Republic.

Stith's post of duty at the Southern, ever since the opening of the new house, was at the door of the dining-room, where he looked after the hats and wraps of the guests. Such was his marvellously retentive memory, added to long training, that he never issued a check for a hat or marked it with the name of the owner.

Yet from year's end to year's end, where hundreds of guests sought their three meals a day, Mr. Stith seldom or never made a mistake in returning an article of headgear.

The patrons of the house will recall the swift, intelligent glance Stith would give a stranger, and then the comprehensive look into the interior of the hat. That was sufficient, and the chapman would be deftly laid aside while he attended to other guests who might be coming in by the score.

It mattered not how long or short a time the guest would devote to the pleasures of the table, Stith and the hat would be ready for him as he left the dining-room.

Schemes without number have been tried with the idea of confusing him and causing him to make mistakes, but they always failed.

On one occasion Herrmann, the magician, slipped into the dining-room unobserved by Stith, and in doing so secured his hat, a crush affair known as an opera hat, in a remote corner of the rack. When he came out he told Stith that he was in a terrible hurry to recover his hat, which he described as being of the steeple pattern, and promised him a dollar if he could find it for him.

Without a minute's hesitation Stith handed Herrmann his hat. Herrmann wanted to know how he had the right hat in face of an incorrect description, especially when there were a score of silk hats on the rack at the time.

"Easy enough," said Stith. "I knew that not one of those hats belonged to you. A little while ago I saw your hat in the corner there, and I knew then that it belonged to the first man who came out of the dining-room whom I had not seen before."

In addition to the above happy faculty, Stith never failed to locate the species of hotel beat who takes his meals in a hotel under the pretense of being a guest. Regular guests were brought up with a round turn by Stith when they took extra meals without reporting the same to the clerks.

Mr. Stith's health failed to such an extent that he left the Southern finally last April to try the healing waters of various springs. It was to no purpose, however, as he succumbed to an insidious kidney disease and died.

Stith was a very light mulatto, about forty-five years of age. His fellow employees at the Southern say that he was very frugal and abstemious in his way of living, and that he died possessed of considerable real estate and other property in St. Louis.

## ORIGIN OF "UNCLE SAM."

Soldiers in the War of 1812 First Used the Now Famous Title.

At the beginning of this century the slaughtering of cattle and the packing of beef for the New York, Boston and Philadelphia markets was pursued as a business by the firm of Ebenezer and Samuel Wilson, two brothers from Mason, N. H., who had settled at Troy in 1789, says the Troy Times.

At their two large slaughter houses they frequently killed 1,000 head of cattle weekly for shipment to the three cities.

When the war of 1812 began, their beef and pork were in great demand, and not a few army contractors have taken large orders for the delivery of these meats packed in barrels at certain places where the army of the north was encamped.

From time to time their contracts stipulated for the delivery of these provisions at the camp at Greenbush, where, among other recruits, were a number from Troy. The soldiers from Troy, seeing that barrels of beef and pork marked with the letters "U. S." by the Government inspectors, denominated them as "Uncle Sam's" meaning that Samuel Wilson, whom they familiarly called "Uncle Sam," was the person from whom the meat had been purchased.

The other soldiers, assuming that the term "Uncle Sam" was applied to the letters "U. S." stamped on the barrels, began using the appellation "Uncle Sam" figuratively for the United States Government.

From that time the designation "Uncle Sam" for the letters "U. S." grew into popular acceptance and has ever since been as familiarly known as that of "John Bull" for the English nation.

## SHOULD HAVE SHOT HIM.

A Villainous Pun Perpetrated by a Would-be Wit.

He is one of those punsters who make puns even at funerals. Just like the man that John Dennis had in mind when, in 1601, he wrote, "A man who could make so vile a pun would not scruple to pick a pocket." He makes vile puns mostly, but he makes a good one now and then.

A man who makes many puns can't help but make a good one once in a while. The particular pun which is to be given to the public in this paragraph was made in the office of a certain official who has a white beard and long flowing hair.

The punster and a Rochester Union reporter entered the office together and together sought to the official. The reporter noticed a hair on the official's shoulder and said: "Mr. there's a hair on your coat. I'll take it off."

The punster saw that his chance had come, and gathering himself up he said: "I'll take it off, but I'll take it off in a minute."

Neither the official nor the reporter spoke for a moment. They were paralyzed by the desperate punner's audacity.

## The Play of It.

First Swell—There goes Miller, the richest man in town. What a pity the old fellow has no daughter! Don't you think so?

Second Swell—I don't know. Why?

First Swell—Because she would make such a good wife for me.

## An Antelope.

From the *Illustrated American*.  
 One night my brother had decided to get married at the evening.  
 He—He had, but I was to be his best man, and a single antelope.  
 He—He had, but I was to be his best man, and a single antelope.  
 He—He had, but I was to be his best man, and a single antelope.



## Danger

## TEST OF EYESIGHT.

The Crafty Engineer Passed with Flying Colors.

The official of a leading English railway company, according to an Englishman recently in this country, tells a good story about one of the engine-drivers of his line, says the Toronto Mail.

The engine-driver was growing old, and frequent reports were made to the directors that his eyesight was not as good as it should be. This the old man stoutly denied, but, nevertheless, there is every reason to believe that his eyes are getting a trifle dim.

However, he stoutly maintained that his eyes were not only strong, but physically strong, and that these criticisms were made by jealous fellow engine-drivers.

The test for eyesight on that line was made by a doctor who lived in a house facing a large common. When he wished to test the man's eyes he used to say: "Look over there and see what you can see."

This fact had got known to the employees of the railway, and when the old engine-driver was going to be examined he arranged with his son that he should take his bicycle about half a mile across the common and stop down and out it.

In due time the old engine-driver was led to the window and the doctor said as usual: "What can you see?"

"Well, I see a young man stooping down beside a bicycle."

"Do you see anything else?"

"Gammer!" said the engine-driver. "Can't you see it? Why, he is oiling it."

On this the doctor took up a pair of field-glasses on the table and looking out behind, quite plainly saw a young man stooping down oiling his bicycle. "Magnificent sight!" he said; "magnificent! And to think the engine-driver is taking his 40 shillings a week with striking regularity."

## VERESTCHAGEN'S DECORATION.

He Won the St. George Cross and Was Made to Accept It.

The celebrated Russian painter, Verestchagen, who created such a sensation by his alleged sacrilegious painting, once received a decoration. The Cross bestowed on him the crown of St. George, says the Times.

Verestchagen happened to be in a small town which was besieged by a large force of Turcomen. The little Russian garrison was in danger of being overwhelmed by the enemy. Although not connected with the army Verestchagen seized a musket and laid out many a picturesque-looking Turcoman, whom he would much rather have painted.

He distinguished himself in the sorties made on the enemy for the reason, as he put it, that he didn't care to be left behind. The Russians managed to hold out until reinforcements arrived.

Some time afterwards Gen. Kaufman called on the artist and told him that the Cross had given him the cross of St. George.

"What do I want with the St. George's cross?"

"That's neither here nor there. The cross is here and you must take it."

Verestchagen refused to accept the cross, as Gen. Kaufman, taking out his penknife, cut a slit into the breast of Verestchagen's coat and fastened the cross on his breast.

"There you have ruined my only coat," said the artist. There was no help for it; he had to accept the decoration. He said it was a warning to him never again to give up the brush for the musket.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria.

When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria.

When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria.

When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

## HORSES, CARRIAGES, &amp;c.

## REMOVAL!

On or about Jan. 1, 1892,

we will remove from 63 and 61 Murray st. to our late and spacious storehouse.

263 and 265 Canal St.

Hundreds of Carriages, Surveys, Phaetons, Buggies and all Wagons run on wheels.

We offer all vehicles on hand from now until date of removal at great bargains.

To Farmers and Contractors.

We will sell Farm and Contractors' Wagons to them at special low prices.

Studebaker Bros.,

MANUFACTURING CO., N. Y.

## SPORTING.

UPON COUNTY JOCKEY CLUB. NORTH BERRY, N. J. Racing every day, rain or shine.

First race at 12 o'clock. Last race at 4 o'clock. Free admission. Seats 10 cents. Concessions 5 cents.

FLATS AND APARTMENTS TO LET.

Furnished—Miscellaneous.

PLATS, furnished and unfurnished, all parts with all new furniture leased. FLATS, 103 West 25th st.

Unfurnished.

ELEGANT FLATS of four rooms, rent \$18 to \$20. 247 West 25th st. apply to janitor.

BUSINESS PROPERTY TO LET.

UPPER ASSEMBLY ROOMS, 102 East 55th st. Also a small office, suitable for a law office. Also elegant one-story and a meeting-room to let.

INSTRUCTION.

TELEGRAPHY and typewriting lessons at 216 Broadway, N. Y. (phone 81 per week; call or write).

## All Shrunk Up

—the flannels that are washed without Pearl-line; besides, they're worn out by hard rubbing. Wash flannels with Pearl-line, and they will be softer, brighter and better. They will last twice as long; they will look like new while they last. Every package tells how it's done; do as it says, and it will be done well.

As one wash is sufficient to ruin flannels, great care should be exercised as to the use of the many imitations which are being offered by unscrupulous grocers or peddlers. JAMES PYLE

## GOLD MEDAL, PARIS, 1878.

W. BAKER & CO.'S Breakfast Cocoa

from which the excess of oil has been removed.

It is absolutely pure and it is soluble.

No Chemicals are used in its preparation. It has more than three times the strength of Cocoa mixed with Sugar, Arrowroot or Sugar.

and is therefore far more economical, costing less than one cent a cup. Its delicious, nourishing, strengthening, easily digested, and admirably adapted for invalids as well as for persons in health.

Sold by Grocers everywhere.

W. BAKER & CO., Dorchester, Mass.

Great reductions in prices for Boys' Suits.

Hackett, Carhart & Co. Clothing & Hats.

B'way & Canal St.

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Great reductions in prices for Boys' Suits.

OUR PRICES ARE 33 1/3 PER CENT LOWER THAN ANY OTHER HOUSE.

## Ehrich Bros.



Store open evenings until Christmas, commencing Saturday, Dec. 12.

## SPECIAL SALE.

## AN ENTIRE STOCK

## OF MISSES' SUITS AND CLOAKS.

Misses' Plain and Cape Newmarkets, sizes 12 to 16 years, worth \$3.98, at \$2.98.

Misses' Fine Astrakhan Reversible Jackets, sizes 12 to 16 years, worth \$4.98, at \$3.98.

Children's fine all-wool Gingham Coats, divided and deep cape, neatly trimmed, sizes 6 to 14 years, worth \$5.50, at \$4.98.

Misses' fine fur trimmed jackets, Reversible front and edge, sizes 12 to 18 years, worth \$12.00 to \$20.00, at \$10.98.

Misses' fine all-wool Military Cape Newmarkets, navy blue and tan; worth \$10.00 to \$18.00, at \$12.98.

One lot fine imported Dresses, sizes 4 to 14 years, worth \$12.50, at \$6.98.

One lot of two piece dresses, latest styles, worth \$18.00 to \$30.00, at \$10.98 and \$15.98.

One lot fine quality dark blue Beaver OVERCOATS with cape, sizes 4 to 12 yrs., formerly sold at \$5.50, reduced to \$4.98.

One lot fine quality dark blue HEAVY REEFERS, sizes 4 to 12 years, regular price \$6.00, reduced to \$3.48.

One lot Boys' Cassimere and Scotch CHEVIOT SUITS in neat designs, size 4 to 14 years, worth \$4.50, at \$2.98.

One lot of fine quality OVERCOATS, with deep cape and extra length, neat cassimere and tweed, size 3 to 12 years, worth \$7.00, at \$4.98.

Useful Holiday Gifts

At Convincing Prices.

All Wool 3-Piece Short Pant Suits, 4 to 10 years, at \$3.98; actual value \$6.

All-Wool Double-Breasted Short Pant Suits, 8 to 16 years, at \$4.98; actual value \$8.

All-Wool Long Pant Suits, 11 to 18 years (30 to 34 chest), at \$7.98; actual value \$10.

All-Wool Overcoats, cut short, Box Back, 6 to 12 years, at \$4.98; actual value \$7.

Hats and Caps.

Rubber Clothing.

Children's Leggings.

Assortment and values unsurpassed

6th Avenue, 19th to 20th Street.

Boys' Overcoats and Ulsters, prices universally marked down.

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B'way, cor. Canal St.

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